

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 5 to line 11, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In one embodiment, application 135 is an address book of the STAROFFICE Software Package produced by Sun Microsystems, Palo Alto, CA. Data source 140 is, for example, a lightweight directory access protocol (LDAP) source, which means that the data in this source is stored according to the LDAP format. Hence, driver ~~121~~ 120 is a LDAP driver.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 27 to line 36, with the following rewritten paragraph:

From the perspective of a user interface 190 (Fig. 2), these different drivers can be accessed through a common API. This means that a user can access, through user interface 190, an API, which is the same for all of the different drivers 120 to 123. Thus, there is only one single API through which such an access to the different data sources can be carried out. Based on such a configuration and by further providing merging driver 125, a user can simultaneously access a plurality of different data sources by a single access operation.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 21 to line 28, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Result offers complete check operation 405 determines whether merging driver 125 has received a result offer from each of the data source drivers that still have data responsive to the query. If a result offer has been received from each such data source driver, check

operation 405 transfers processing to determine highest rank operation 407, and otherwise transfers processing to receive result offer operation 406.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 29 to line 35, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Processing remains in receive result offer operation 406 until another driver makes a result offer to merging driver 125 and then processing returns to result offers complete check operation 405. Hence, processing transfers between operations 405 and 406 until merging driver 125 receives a results offer from all data source drivers that still ~~has~~ have data available that is responsive to the query.